ARTICLES

OF

Visitation and Enquiry

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-wardens, and Side-men of every Parish,

IN THE

Primary Episcopal Visitation

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

HENRY

By Divine Permission

Lord Bishop of *LONDON.*

LONDON:

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The Tenor of the Oath to be Adminiſtred to the Church-wardens, and Side-men of every Pariſh.

YOU ſhall ſwear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of a Church-warden within your Pariſh, and according to the beſt of your skill and knowledg preſent ſuch Things and Perſons, as you know to be preſentable by the Laws Eccleſiaſtical of this Realm. So help you God and the contents of this Book.

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ARTICLES
OF
INSTRUCTION
FOR
Visitation and Enquiry
IN THE
DIOCESE of *LONDON.*

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1. IS your Church or Chappel decently kept as becomes the house of God?

2. Is the furniture of your Church or Chappel, as Bells, Communion plate and Cloths, Ministers Surplice, Pulpit-cloth, Herse-cloth, with other usual Ornaments duly provided, and looked after?

3. Have you a fair Bible, Book of Common-Prayer, Books of Homilies, and Canons; a Register of Births, Burials, and Mariages, and is the said Register duly kept,

and the tranſcript return'd every year into the Biſhops Regiſtry? Have you alſo a Regiſter of ſuch Strangers as are admitted to Preach; and a Book for the entry of the Church-wardens accounts? And are the ſaid Books carefully lookt to, and made uſe of?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houſes, Glebes and Tithes belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced and preſerved from annoiance, encrochments, and waſte?
2. Is the dwelling-houſe, and all the out-houſes of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate kept in good repair: and are the Glebe-lands, Orchards, Gardens, and other eaſements belonging to them, preſerv'd from being embezel., or endammag'd? And have you a perfect Terrier of ſuch Glebe-lands, Orchards, *&c.* and alſo of Penſions, Tithes, and compoſitions as belong unto them?

TIT. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

1. HAve you a Parſon, Vicar, or Curate legally ſetled among you?
2. Is he conſtantly reſident? or how long, and on what occaſion is he abſent? has he a Curate? how is he licenſed, and how maintain'd? During his abſence, what care is taken for hoſpitality, and charity to the poor?

3. Does

3. Does your Parſon, Vicar or Curate conſtantly, reverently, and regularly Officiate on the Lords days, Holy-day, and the Eves of them; as alſo read the Letany upon all *Wedneſdays* and *Fridays* weekly; and obſerve Rogation and Ember days according to the Order of the Church; and ſo perform all Offices, without addition or diminution?

3. Does your Miniſter diligently inſtruct the youth of your Pariſh in the Church Catechiſm? and does he endeavor to reclaim all profane perſons, Papiſts, and Sectaries; and preſs the great duties of true faith, piety, juſtice, temperance, charity, allegiance, and conformity? And is he diligent in viſiting the ſick, and ſatisfying the doubts of troubled conſciences? Laſtly, is he peaceable, ſober, and exemplary in his converſation, and grave in his demeanor, company, hair, and apparel?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

1. ARE there in your Pariſh any perſons known or reputed to be Jews, Heretics, or Schiſmatics, whether Papiſts, or Fanatics? what are the numbers of each particular Sect of them? and are they ſtudious to pervert the Orthodox; or inſolent towards them for doing their duty?

2. Are any of your Pariſh known or ſuſpected to be guilty of Inceſt, Adultery, Fornication, or any other enormous crimes? Do any profane the Lords day, or other great Holy-days, or the Name of God, or are irreverent:

irreverent in the Church, or neglect the reſpective duties incumbent on them in reference to the Sacraments of Baptiſm, and the Lords Supper, and other Rites; as of Catechizing, Confirmation, Marriage, Thankſgiving after Child-birth, Burial of the dead, or the Cenſures of the Church?

3. Are the Wills and Teſtaments of the dead in your Pariſh, or the adminiſtration of their Goods duly taken out and executed? Have any Lands, Legacies, or charitable gifts beſtowed on your Pariſh, or any other good uſes; been embezled, or unduly beſtowed?

TIT. V.

Concerning Pariſh Clerks, and Sextons.

HAve you belonging to your Pariſh or Chapelry a ſufficient Clerk or Sexton, and does he faithfully and diligently execute his Office?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hoſpitals, Schools, Schoolmaſters, Phyſicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. IS there in your Pariſh any Hoſpital, Alms-houſe, or Free-ſchool? How are they endowed, ordered, and governed? Does any one keep School without licence from the Biſhop: or if licenſed, neglect to teach the Youth committed to him the Catechiſm of the Church, and to bring them to the Service of the Church?

2. Does

2. Does any in your Pariſh practiſe Phyſic, or Chirurgery, or do the Office of a Midwife, without approbation and licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Eccleſiaſtical Officers.

1. HAve any Officers that exerciſe Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction in this Dioceſe; taken, or exacted any exceſſive Fees for any Cauſe or Act; or any Bribe, or Reward for the concealment or impunity of delinquents: or ſped any Act privately, and not in the preſence of a public Notary?

2. Is the number of the Apparitors in this Dioceſe exceſſive; have they ſummon'd any perſon unlawfully: given in falſe returns, or taken reward for concealments; or threatned proſecutions where they had no reward, or otherwiſe misbehaved themſelves in their Office?

Advertiſements.

I. THe Miniſter of every Pariſh may joyn in preſentment with the Church-wardens and Side-men; and if they fail to preſent, the Miniſters themſelves (who have the higheſt obligation to endeavor the ſuppreſſing of impiety and diſorder) may and ought to do it.

II. The Miniſter, Church-wardens and Side-men, at the delivery of their Bill of Preſentment, are required to draw

draw up in writing and atteſt under their hands, a particular account of the number of Recuſants, whether Popiſh or other; and alſo the number of the Orthodox and conformable in their Pariſh, as follows.

1. *What number of Perſons Conforming is there in common eſtimation in your Pariſh?*
2. *What number of Popiſh Recuſants, or perſons thereof ſuſpected, is there?*
3. *What number of other Recuſants is there, who ſeparate from the Communion of the Church?*

III. The Miniſters are to take notice, that the Biſhop at his Viſitation will be ready to confirm the Youth that ſhall be fitted and brought before him? and therefore are deſired by diligent Catechizing to prepare thoſe under their charge, and to bring them, at the time appointed, unto the Biſhop.

FINIS.